

SENATE JOURNAL
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

Juneau, Alaska

Friday

March 1, 2024

Forty-sixth Day

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order by President Stevens at 10:35 a.m.

The roll showed seventeen members present. Senators Hoffman, Kaufman, Shower were excused from a call of the Senate.

The prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Senator Olson moved and asked unanimous consent the prayer be spread. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Lord, let our memory provide no shelter for grievance against each other.

Lord, let our heart provide no harbor of rancor for each other.

Lord, let our tongue be no accomplice in the judgment of each other.

Let us be ambassadors of reconciliation, seeking a third way of integrity and justice together. And if we cannot work together, then at least give us humor and goodwill to find the humanity in one another. Amen.

Senator Hughes led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Certification

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the journals for the forty-fourth and forty-fifth legislative days be approved as certified by the Secretary. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

A Declaration of Disaster Emergency and initial finance plan dated February 29, authorizing funds for the City of Kotzebue and Northwest Arctic Borough as a result of a water utility line freeze-up from loss of electrical power, with an accompanying letter, was received pursuant to AS 26.23.020. The declaration, letter and finance plan had been copied to the Finance Committee Cochairs.

Messages from the House

Message dated February 28 was read stating the House passed and transmitted for consideration:

First Reading and Reference of House Bills**HB 89**

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 89(FIN) BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to education tax credits for certain payments and contributions for child care and child care facilities; relating to the insurance tax education credit, the income tax education credit, the oil or gas producer education credit, the property tax education credit, the mining business education credit, the fisheries business education credit, and the fisheries resource landing tax education credit; renaming the day care assistance program the child care assistance program; relating to the child care assistance program and the child care grant program; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of secs. 1, 2, and 21, ch. 61, SLA 2014; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Health and Social Services and Finance Committees.

Communications

The following reports are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate:

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
Report on Military and Spouse Temporary Licensing
Calendar Year 2023
in accordance with AS 08.01.063

Department of Education & Early Development
School Capital Project Funding Under SB 237
Annual Report
in accordance with AS 14.11.035

Report from the Commissioner of the Department of Administration dated February 28 was received stating the monetary terms for the collective bargaining agreement reached with the Public Safety Employees Association representing members of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in accordance with AS 23.40.215.

President Stevens referred the report to the Finance Committee.

Standing Committee Reports**SB 91**

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 91 "An Act relating to telehealth; relating to multidisciplinary care teams; and relating to the practice of medicine" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 91(FIN)

Signing do pass: Senator Olson, Cochair; Senator Bishop. Signing no recommendation: Senators Wilson, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Commerce, Community, and
Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 132

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 132 "An Act imposing an annual educational facilities maintenance and construction tax on net earnings from self-employment and wages; relating to the administration and enforcement of the educational facilities maintenance and construction tax; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 132(FIN)

Signing do pass: Senator Olson, Cochair; Senator Bishop. Signing do not pass: Senator Wilson. Signing no recommendation: Senator Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 3, zero, Department of Labor and Workforce
Development

Fiscal Note No. 4, Department of Revenue

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 161

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 161 "An Act relating to municipal taxation of farm use land; and providing for an effective date" and recommended it be replaced with

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 161(CRA) "An Act relating to municipal taxation of farm land and farm structures; and providing for an effective date."

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Gray-Jackson, Giessel, Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 236

The Community and Regional Affairs Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 236 "An Act relating to grants to disaster victims."

Signing do pass: Senator Dunbar, Chair; Senators Gray-Jackson, Giessel, Bjorkman.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 1, indeterminate, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 26

The Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(TRB) "An Act relating to the official languages of the State of Alaska; renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages" and recommended it be replaced with

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 26(FIN) "An Act relating to the official languages of the State of Alaska; renaming the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council as the Council for Alaska Native Languages; relating to the transfer of the Council for Alaska Native Languages from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to the Department of Education and Early Development; and relating to the Council for Alaska Native Languages."

(Title Change SCR 11)

Signing do pass: Senator Olson, Cochair; Senator Bishop. Signing no recommendation: Senators Wilson, Merrick.

The following fiscal information was published today:

Fiscal Note No. 2, Department of Education and Early
Development

Fiscal Note No. 3, Department of Commerce, Community, and
Economic Development

The bill was referred to the Rules Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Resolutions

SCR 10

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10 BY THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE,

Establishing the Joint Legislative Seafood Industry
Task Force.

was read the first time and referred to the Finance Committee.

Introduction and Reference of Senate Bills

SB 257

SENATE BILL NO. 257 BY THE SENATE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, entitled:

"An Act relating to the Regulatory Commission of
Alaska; relating to public utilities; relating to electric
reliability organizations; relating to the Alaska
Energy Authority; relating to the Railbelt
Transmission Organization; and providing for an
effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the Labor and Commerce,
Resources and Finance Committees.

Consideration of the Calendar**Second Reading of Senate Resolutions****SR 3**

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3 Recognizing March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in Alaska to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care for individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease, was read the second time and was before the Senate on final passage.

Senators Myers, Kawasaki, Tobin, Hughes, Giessel, Dunbar, Claman, Bishop, Olson, Merrick, Stedman, Stevens moved and asked unanimous consent to be shown as cosponsors on the resolution. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The question being: "Shall SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3 Recognizing March 2024 as Chronic Kidney Disease Awareness Month in Alaska to raise awareness of the need for research, screening programs, and access to care for individuals who suffer from chronic kidney disease, pass the Senate?" The roll was taken with the following result:

SR 3

Final Passage

YEAS: 17 NAYS: 0 EXCUSED: 3 ABSENT: 0

Yeas: Bishop, Bjorkman, Claman, Dunbar, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Kawasaki, Kiehl, Merrick, Myers, Olson, Stedman, Stevens, Tobin, Wielechowski, Wilson

Excused: Hoffman, Kaufman, Shower

and so, SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3 passed the Senate and was referred to the Secretary for engrossment and enrollment.

Citations

In Memoriam - Howard Bess
Senator(s) Hughes, Kiehl
Representative(s) D. Johnson

In Memoriam - Dirk Craft, Sr.
Senator(s) Hughes

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the citations be adopted. Without objection, the citations were adopted and referred to the Secretary for transmittal.

Announcements

SB 257

Senator Bjorkman, Chair, moved and asked unanimous consent Uniform Rule 23 be waived on SENATE BILL NO. 257 "An Act relating to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska; relating to public utilities; relating to electric reliability organizations; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; relating to the Railbelt Transmission Organization; and providing for an effective date" for the Labor and Commerce Committee meeting on March 4. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Announcements are at the end of the journal.

Adjournment

Senator Giessel moved and asked unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment until 11:00 a.m., March 4, 2024. Without objection, the Senate adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Liz Clark
Secretary of the Senate

Announcements

Americans with Disabilities Act Notice - Persons with disabilities who require special accommodation or alternative communication formats to access committee meetings may contact the appropriate committee office or the Legislative Information Office in their community. Reasonable advance notice is needed to accommodate the request. For further information, call the ADA Coordinator at 465-3854 Voice/465-4980 TDD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

+ indicates teleconference

= indicates bill previously heard/scheduled

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Mar 05	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 184	ELIMINATE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 07	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
	-- MEETING CANCELED --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

EDUCATION

Mar 01	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		
Mar 04	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Alaska's Charter School Model by School Board Members From School Districts with Charter Schools		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 06	Wednesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+= SB 97	TEACHER RECRUITMENT; LUMP SUM PAYMENT		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

EDUCATION (continued)

Mar 08	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

FINANCE

Mar 01	Friday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	Update from the Alaska Broadband Office		
	Thomas Lochner, Director		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Mar 04	Monday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

Mar 05	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	School District Fund Balance Discussion		
	<Invited Testimony Only>		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Mar 05	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Mar 06	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	SB 197	RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CODE	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	SB 183	WORKERS' COMP BENEFITS GUARANTY FUND	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	

Mar 06	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	1:30 PM
	-- Please Note Time Change --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

Mar 07	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	9:00 AM
+	SB 189	EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	HB 120	HUNT/FISH LICENSE FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENT	
		-- Invited & Public Testimony --	
+	SCR 10	JOINT LEGIS SEAFOOD INDUSTRY TASK FORCE	
+		Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled	

SENATE JOURNAL

March 1, 2024

1781

FINANCE (continued)

Mar 07 Thursday Senate Finance 532 1:30 PM
+ -- Please Note Time Change --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 08 Friday Senate Finance 532 9:00 AM
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Mar 05 Tuesday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM
+ Consideration of Governor's Appointees:
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
John Sturgeon, Brent Fisher
- State Medical Board
David Barnes, David Wilson
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 241 MEDICAL ASSIST. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
<Bill Hearing Canceled>
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

Mar 07 Thursday Davis 106 3:30 PM
+ -- Please Note Location Change --
Meeting Jointly with House Health and Social
Services Committee
+ Presentation: Alaska Citizen Review Panel
Annual Report and DFCS Office of Children's
Services Response

JUDICIARY

Mar 01 Friday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ -- MEETING CANCELED --
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled

SENATE JOURNAL

1782

March 1, 2024

JUDICIARY (continued)

Mar 04	Monday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Anna Cometa, Violent Crimes Compensation Board		
	Ron Dupee, Alaska Police Standards Council		
	Jeff Brown, Alaska Police Standards Council		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 06	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
+	Consideration of Governor's Appointees:		
	Terrence Haas, Public Defender		
	Robert Sheldon, Commission on Judicial Conduct		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 08	Friday	Butrovich 205	1:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

LABOR & COMMERCE

Mar 01	Friday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+= SB 173	AUTHORIZE HANDGUNS SCHOOL EMPLOYEE/VOLUNT		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 211	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS/LOANS/SALES		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		
Mar 04	Monday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	1:30 PM
+ SB 154	BIDDER PREF MILITARY CAREER SKILLS PROG		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 102	REFUSE UTILITY REGULATIONS		
	-- Invited & Public Testimony --		
	-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --		
+ SB 44	NATUROPATHS: LICENSING; PRACTICE		
	<Bill Hearing Canceled>		
+ SB 257	ELECTRIC UTILITY REGULATION		
	Uniform Rule 23 Waived		
	-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --		
	Streamed live on AKL.tv		

SENATE JOURNAL

March 1, 2024

1783

LABOR & COMMERCE (continued)

Mar 06 Wednesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ Presentation: TVEP by University of Alaska
+= SB 121 PHARMACIES/PHARMACISTS/BENEFITS MANAGERS
-- Invited & Public Testimony --

Mar 08 Friday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 1:30 PM

+ SB 196 EMPLOYER DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+ SB 234 EXTEND MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD
-- Public Testimony <Time Limit May Be Set> --
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES

Mar 01 Friday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+= SB 210 SALMON HATCHERY PERMITS
<Bill Hearing Canceled>
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+= SB 199 STATE LAND: DISPOSAL/SALE/LEASE/RESTRICT
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
+= SB 171 RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING
-- Public Testimony --
Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 04 Monday Butrovich 205 3:30 PM

+ SB 217 INTEGRATED TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS
-- Testimony <Invitation Only> --
+ SB 257 ELECTRIC UTILITY REGULATION
<Bill Hearing Canceled>
+ Presentation: Alaska Railbelt Transmission Issues
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

RESOURCES (continued)

Mar 06	Wednesday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	Presentation: Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) by Mark Richards, Executive Director		
+= SB 168	COMPENSATION FOR WRONGFULLY SEIZED GAME -- Public Testimony --		
+ SJR 18	NAT'L PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ HJR 20	NAT'L PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA <Pending Referral> -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
Mar 08	Friday	Butrovich 205	3:30 PM
	No Meeting Scheduled		

STATE AFFAIRS

Mar 05	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Division of Elections Overview by Carol Beecher, Director, Division of Elections		
+ HB 129	VOTER REGISTRATION -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 246	LEGISLATORS LEGAL FUND -- Invited & Public Testimony --		
+ SB 232	VOTER PREREGISTRATION FOR MINORS -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		
Mar 07	Thursday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	3:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Corrections by Jen Winkleman, Commissioner DOC		
+ SB 176	BOARD OF PAROLE: MEMBERSHIP -- Invited & Public Testimony -- **Streamed live on AKL.tv**		
+	Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled		

SENATE JOURNAL

March 1, 2024

1785

TRANSPORTATION

Mar 05 Tuesday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ SB 244 MARVIN THURMOND GALENA MAINT. STATION
-- Invited & Public Testimony --
Streamed live on AKL.tv

Mar 07 Thursday Butrovich 205 1:30 PM
+ Presentation: Hours of Service & Electronic Log
Review by Senator Myers & Invited Presenters
+ Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled
Streamed live on AKL.tv

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

Mar 05 Tuesday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 11:00 AM
+ Department of Administration Budget

Mar 19 Tuesday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM
+ Department of Administration Budget

CORRECTIONS

Mar 21 Thursday Butrovich 205 5:15 PM
+ Department of Corrections Budget

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Mar 14 Thursday Beltz 105 (tsbldg) 11:00 AM
+ Presentation: Spill Prevention and Response

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Mar 06 Wednesday Butrovich 205 5:30 PM
+ Presentation: Department of Family and
Community Services FY 25 Budget

SENATE JOURNAL

1786

March 1, 2024

HEALTH

Mar 05	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Presentation: Department of Health FY 25 Budget		

JUDICIARY

Mar 11	Monday	Butrovich 205	5:15 PM
+	Court System Budget		

LAW

Mar 07	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department Overview		

Mar 14	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department Overview		

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mar 05	Tuesday	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
+	Overview of FY25 Budget Request		

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mar 06	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department Overview		

Mar 13	Wednesday	Senate Finance 532	5:30 PM
+	Department Overview		

REVENUE

Mar 12	Tuesday	Beltz 105 (tsbldg)	11:30 AM
+	Overview: Department of Revenue, Alaska Mental Health Trust and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation by Steve Williams, CEO AMHT, and Bryan Butcher, CEO AHFC		

SENATE JOURNAL

March 1, 2024

1787

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEES (continued)

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Mar 07	Thursday	Senate Finance 532	7:30 AM
+	FY25 Request - continued		

JOINT COMMITTEES

AK FOOD STRATEGY TASK FORCE EXEC. BOARD

Mar 08	Friday	Butrovich 205	11:00 AM
+	1. Public Testimony 1-844-586-9085		
+	2. Report on the Alaska Food Strategy Task Force Presentation to the Legislature		
+	3. Focus Area Updates		
+	4. 2024 Report Process		
+	5. Presentation: Retail Food Supply Chain Frictions and Implications for Rural Food Security by Mike Jones		
+	6. Next Meeting		
+	7. Other Items and Announcements		

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT

Mar 06	Wednesday	Adams 519	5:00 PM
+	Approval of Minutes		
	a. December 13, 2023		
	b. January 15, 2024		
	Executive Session (Procurement)		
	a. Legislative Audit Single Audit Contract Juneau (907) 586-9085, Anchorage (907) 563-9085		
	All other 844-586-9085		